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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count data book is the first to examine statewide indicators of the well being of Nevada's children. The statistical portrait is based on 15 indicators of child well being: (1) percent low birth-weight babies; (2) infant mortality rate; (3) percent of children in poverty; (4) percent of children in single-parent families; (5) percent of families in poverty; (6) teen birth rate; (7) unmarried teen birth rate; (8) percent of students who are high school dropouts; (9) percent of teens not in school or working; (10) child death rate; (11) child abuse and neglect report rate; (12) number of child deaths from abuse; (13) juvenile violent crime arrest rate; (14) teen violent death rate; and (15) teen suicide rate. The report provides a demographic profile of Nevada's children and families, compares Nevada to the rest of the nation with regard to the indicators, displays trends in Nevada over time, and provides a state and county profile for each indicator. Findings indicate that: The teen birth rate is rising more quickly in Nevada than nationally; Nevada ranks fiftieth on the immunization rate of 2-year-olds; nearly half the pre-schoolage children are not enrolled in preschools; the percentage of children living in poverty is increasing; and the infant mortality rate is improving. The juvenile violent crime arrest rate and teen violent death rate in Nevada are increasing. (KB)

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NEVADA kids count Data Book

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Sources used for the data in this book are listed on pages 53-57. These sources remain the final authority regarding the quality and meaning of the data.

1997 NEVADA KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK

NEVADA KIDS COUNT

is a project of:

WE CAN, Inc.

in collaboration with

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University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

Nevada Title IV-B, Family Preservation and Support Committee

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Acknowledgements

Nevada KIDS COUNT represents the vision and dedication of many individuals and organizations. We gratefully acknowledge and thank everyone who helped to make the ***1997 Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book*** a reality.

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Kids Count Alaska Data Book, 1996
Montana Kids Count Data Book, 1995
Nebraska Kids Count Data Book, 1995
New York Kids Count Data Book, 1995
Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook, 1996

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A project of WE CAN, Inc.

"The solution for adult problems tomorrow depends in large measure upon the way our children grow up today. There is no greater insight into the future than recognizing when we save our children, we save ourselves."

-Margaret Mead

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"As Governor and as a parent, I look forward to seeing KIDS COUNT become a reality in Nevada. Our children, like children throughout the country, deserve the opportunity to be understood and to have the very best we can give them."

-Governor Bob Miller

Foreword

In 1996, WE CAN, Inc. received a KIDS COUNT grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropic foundation dedicated exclusively to disadvantaged children. Through this grant, WE CAN, in partnership with the University of Nevada Center for Business and Economic Research, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, the State of Nevada, Title IV-B, Family Preservation and Support Committee and the Nevada KIDS COUNT Advisory Council, developed and launched **Nevada KIDS COUNT**.

As our first effort to comprehensively measure the status and well-being of children in Nevada, the purpose of **Nevada KIDS COUNT** is not only to collect and analyze data, but also to translate those findings into public-policy changes to improve life outcomes for the children of our state. By making quality information concerning Nevada's children and their families readily available to all citizens, the **Nevada KIDS COUNT** project seeks to increase public awareness concerning the condition of children in Nevada and to promote the integration of KIDS COUNT information into decision-making processes at all levels of government. The ultimate goal is to improve policy development, program planning and the provision of services for children and families in our state.

To this end, the ***1997 Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book*** is designed for a wide audience including state and local policymakers, planners, service providers, advocates for children, civic and religious leaders, the business community, the media and the citizens of Nevada. As we move into the twenty-first century, the development of effective policies, programs and strategies to improve the future for all children must become our top priority.

Dr. Paula R. Ford, Chairperson
Nevada KIDS COUNT Advisory Council
Executive Director, WE CAN, Inc.

Partners

Nevada KIDS COUNT

WE CAN, Inc., founded in 1975, is a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing child abuse in all its forms and working to improve the quality of life for children and families in Nevada. As the state chapter of the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, WE CAN works to build a statewide commitment to improving the lives of children and families in Nevada by providing public awareness, education, publications, training, and advocacy.

The Center for Business and Economic Research, located at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is a university-based organization, founded in 1975, which offers research and analysis services to public, private and governmental entities and provides data collection, data analysis and interpretation services on the social, economic and demographic impacts of events and policy initiatives in Nevada.

The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, with offices in 16 of the 17 counties in Nevada, is an educational outreach unit of the University of Nevada, Reno. Nevada Cooperative Extension provides educational programs throughout the state by conducting needs assessments, designing and delivering educational programs and conducting evaluation studies.

The Nevada Title IV-B, Family Preservation and Support Committee, a legislatively mandated committee with inclusive statewide geographical representation, organized and developed the *Nevada Title IV-B, Family Preservation and Family Support Five-Year Plan* which was submitted to the United States Department of Health and Human Services in 1995.

The Nevada KIDS COUNT Advisory Council, formally established in 1995, is a dedicated, 28-member council which includes statewide representation from a wide range of diverse organizations working with children or families in Nevada. This broad-based representation encompasses state government, county governments, public and private agencies, Nevada KIDS COUNT partners, data partners, data providers and the business community.

Introduction
Nevada KIDS COUNT

In 1996, WE CAN was fortunate to receive funding to develop and implement a KIDS COUNT project in Nevada through the generosity of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. **Nevada KIDS COUNT** is part of a national and state-by-state effort by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to track the status of children in the United States and advocate public policies to improve the lives of all children. The Casey Foundation supports KIDS COUNT projects in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and publishes the annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book* which provides a statistical portrait of all children throughout the nation. The individual state KIDS COUNT projects and data books furnish a more detailed, community-by-community picture of the condition of children in each state.

The **Nevada KIDS COUNT** project is a statewide, collaborative effort bringing together a wide variety of organizations involved with children or families in Nevada. This inclusive and collaborative representation provides the broad-based support needed to ensure success in achieving the mission of the **Nevada KIDS COUNT** project. By providing policymakers and citizens with the best available data on the educational, social, economic and physical well-being of children in our state, **Nevada KIDS COUNT** seeks to improve the lives and futures of all our children.

Nevada KIDS COUNT Goals

The goals of the **Nevada KIDS COUNT** project are to:

- **Identify** the needs of Nevada children by collecting the best available data on the condition of children in the state and publishing the ***Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book*** annually;
- **Educate** policymakers and citizens by utilizing the **Nevada KIDS COUNT** data to spotlight current problems facing Nevada's children;
- **Advocate** for action on behalf of children and families in Nevada by promoting integration of **Nevada KIDS COUNT** data into decision-making processes at all levels in the state.

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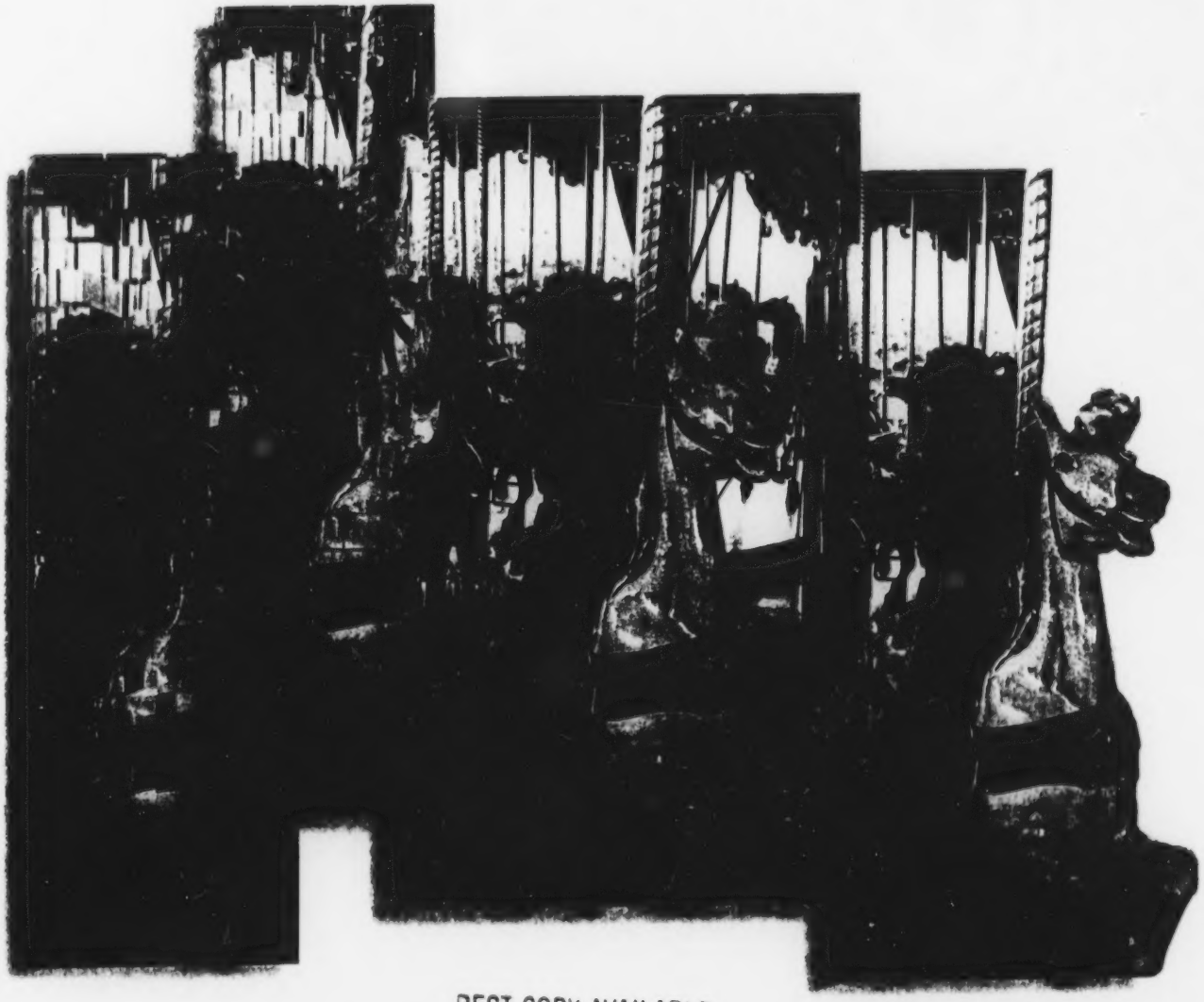

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Overview

Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book

The ***Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book*** is a profile of children in Nevada. The 1997 Data Book provides a statistical portrait of children in the state by looking at 15 indicators that affect the lives of children. The indicators reflect a broad range of conditions that influence the well-being of children and span the developmental stages from birth through adolescence. By examining the best available data in the 17 counties of Nevada, the Data Book provides an information base that can spur more effective policy and community action on behalf of children. It is important to note that in counties with small populations, calculated rates may not be meaningful. It is recommended that rates based on small numbers be interpreted with caution.

For readability, the Data Book is divided into eight sections:

- **Overview:** A summary of the Data Book and Indicators.
- **Nevada Profile:** A demographic picture of Nevada's children and families.
- **Facts About Nevada's Children:** A snapshot of important facts on the condition of Nevada's children.
- **Nevada Compared to the Nation:** A graphic display of how Nevada compares to the nation on the indicators.
- **Nevada Trends:** A graphic display of trends in Nevada on the indicators over time.
- **Indicators:** A statewide look at Nevada's children by specific Nevada KIDS COUNT indicators.
- **Endnotes:** The references and bibliographic section.
- **Definitions and Data Sources**

Nevada KIDS COUNT Indicators

The indicators for the 1997 Data Book are divided into six main categories crucial to the well-being of children: **Health, Economic Well-Being, Teen Births, Education, Children in Danger** and **Juvenile Violent Death and Crime**. This year, the indicators examined are the:

Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies
Infant Mortality Rate
Percent of Children in Poverty
Percent of Single-Parent Families
Percent of Families in Poverty
Teen Birth Rate
Unmarried Teen Birth Rate
Percent of Students Who Are High School Dropouts
Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working
Child Death Rate
Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate
Number of Child Deaths From Abuse*
Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate
Teen Violent Death Rate
Teen Suicide Rate

It is the hope of **Nevada KIDS COUNT** that the 1997 Data Book will empower community leaders, policymakers, advocates and individuals to work toward changes that will improve the quality of life for all of Nevada's children.

** We were unable to collect data on the Number of Child Deaths From Abuse due to inconsistencies in collection methods in the state. A discussion of the challenges involved is provided instead.*

Nevada Profile

State Population 1,582,390*

Population by County	Total
Carson City	46,770
Churchill	21,640
Clark	1,036,290
Douglas	35,880
Elko	43,050
Esmeralda	1,630
Eureka	1,580
Humboldt	16,270
Lander	6,440
Lincoln	4,110
Lyon	26,580
Mineral	6,700
Nye	23,050
Pershing	5,140
Storey	3,200
Washoe	294,290
White Pine	9,770

** 1995 Estimates, Nevada Department of of Taxation, Nevada State Demographer*

Nevada Family Profiles

(1990 U.S. Census, unless otherwise noted)

Nevada Families *	Total	Percent
Number of Families With Children	153,893	
Two-Parent Families With Children	110,797	72.0
Single-Parent Families With Children	43,096	28.0

Nevada Households* With Own Children

Total Number of Households	466,297
Percent Families With Own Children	33.0
Number of Married-Couple Households	239,573
Percent With Own Children	46.2
Number of Single-Mother Households	32,073
Percent of All Households	6.9
Number of Single-Father Households	11,023
Percent of All Households	2.4

*See Definitions and Data Sources

Counties of Nevada

Facts About Nevada's Children

In a state-by-state study reporting on conditions facing America's children, the *1997 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, ranks Nevada 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The state rankings are arranged in sequential order from highest/best (1) to lowest/worst (51). Between 1985 and 1994, the well-being of children in Nevada deteriorated in seven areas and improved in three. The following highlights from the *1997 KIDS COUNT Data Book* provide a snapshot of Nevada's children as compared to the nation:

- **The Teen Birth Rate Is Rising More Quickly in Nevada Than Nationally.**

  The teen birth rate (births to females ages 15-17) in Nevada increased more than twice as fast as the national rate. Nevada has a national rank of 42 on this measure.

- **Nevada Ranked 50th in the Nation on the Immunization Rate of 2-Year-Olds.**

- **Nearly Half of the Young Children in Nevada Are Not Enrolled in Preschool.**

  Forty-six percent of 3- to 5-year-olds in Nevada were not enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten in 1993, despite important evidence demonstrating that preschool helps prepare young children for school. Nationally, 40 percent of 3- to 5-year-old children are not enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten. Nevada ranked 39th in the nation.

- **The Percentage of Children Living in Poverty Is Increasing.**

  The percentage of Nevada's children living in poverty increased by 14 percent between 1985 and 1994.

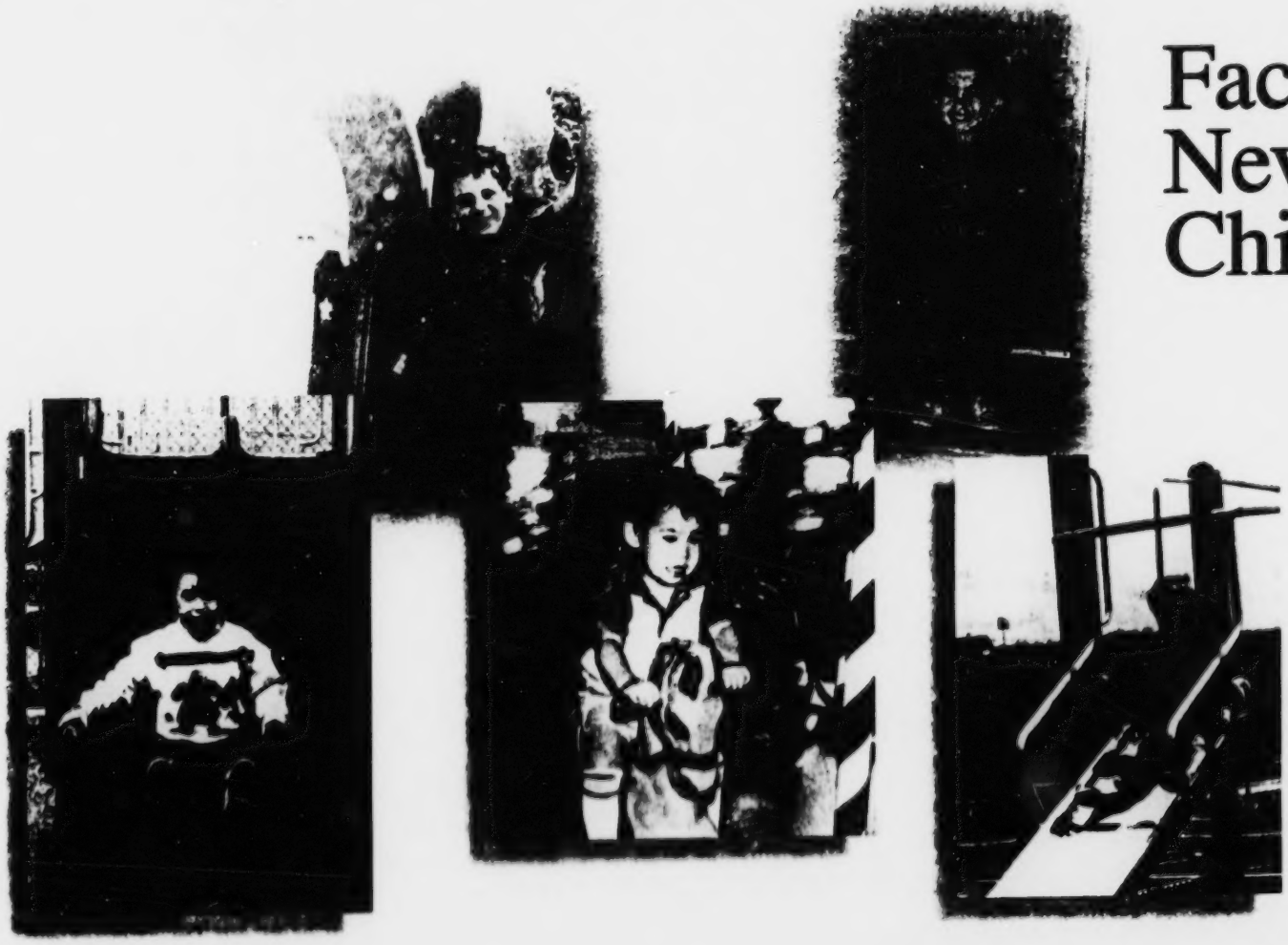
- **The Mathematics Level of Students in Nevada Is Worse Than the National Average.**

  Forty-three percent of fourth-grade students scored below the basic math level in 1996, compared to 38 percent nationwide. Nevada ranked 31st among the 44 states tracking math achievement.

- **The Infant Mortality Rate in Nevada Is Improving.**

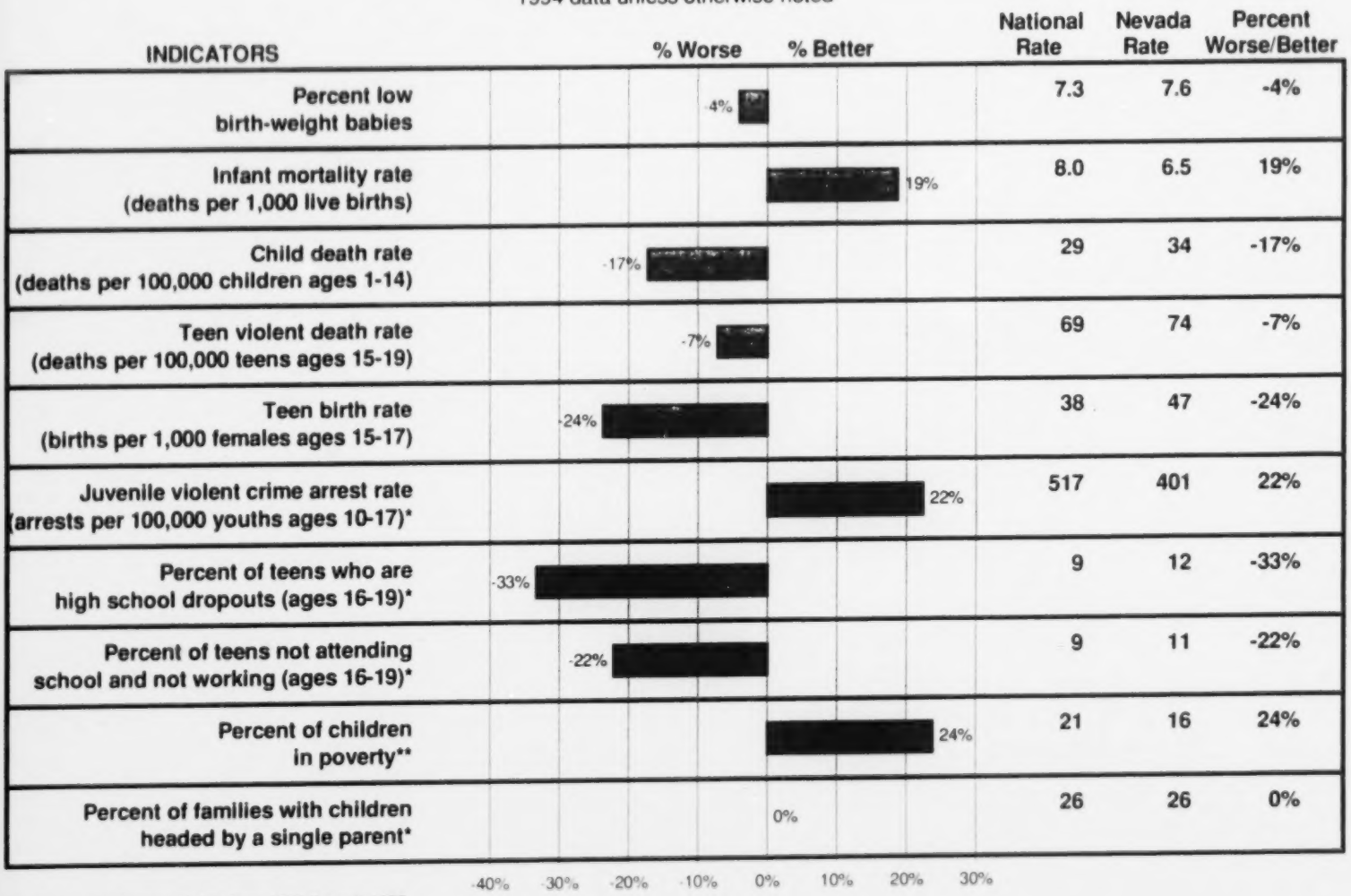
  Nevada had a 24 percent decrease in the infant mortality rate between 1985 and 1994. Nevada ranked 7th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Facts About Nevada's Children



Nevada Compared to the Nation

1994 data unless otherwise noted



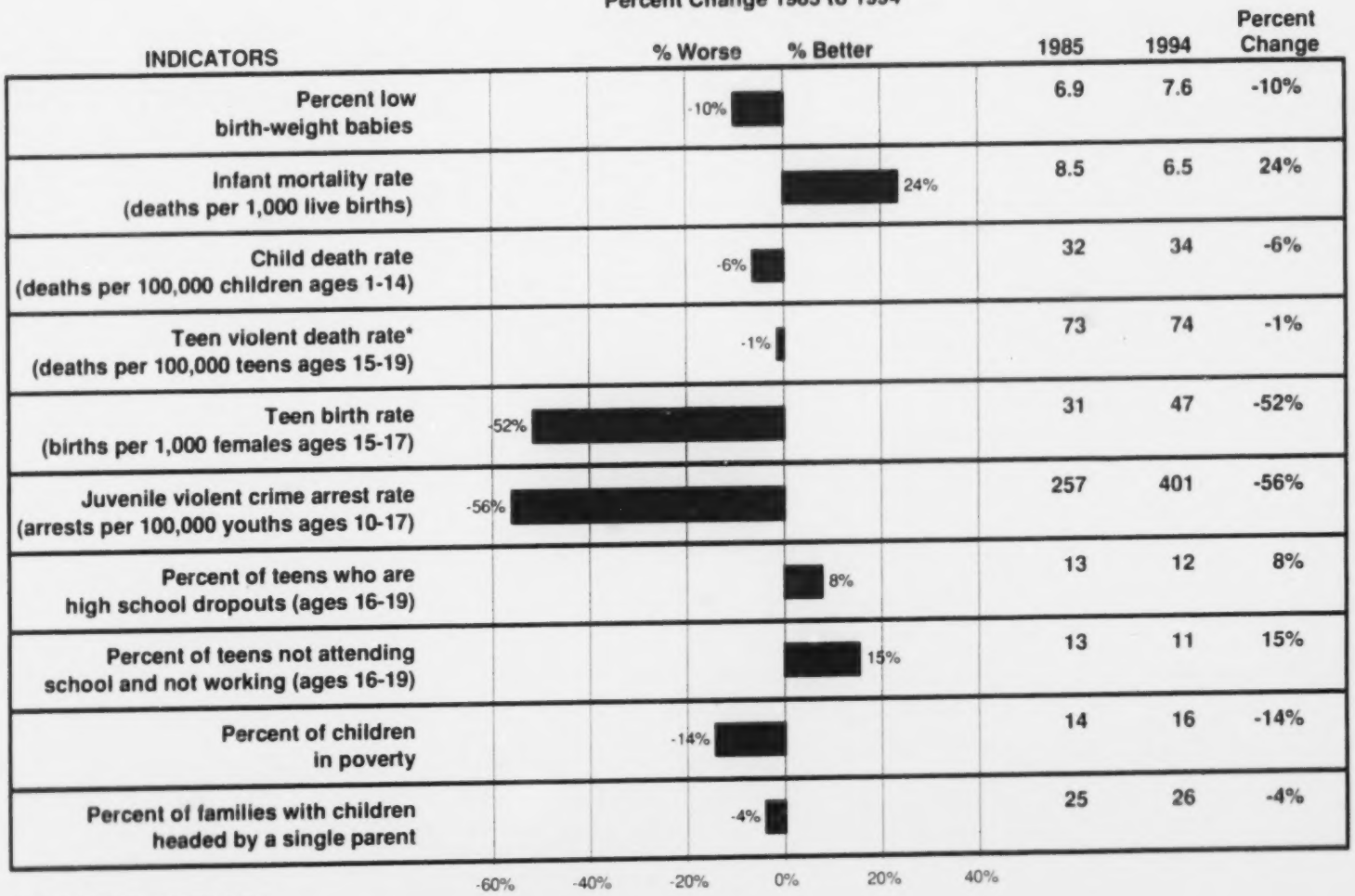
* Three-year average of data from 1993 through 1995

** Five-year average of data from 1992 through 1996

Source: *1997 Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*, Annie E. Casey Foundation

Nevada Trends

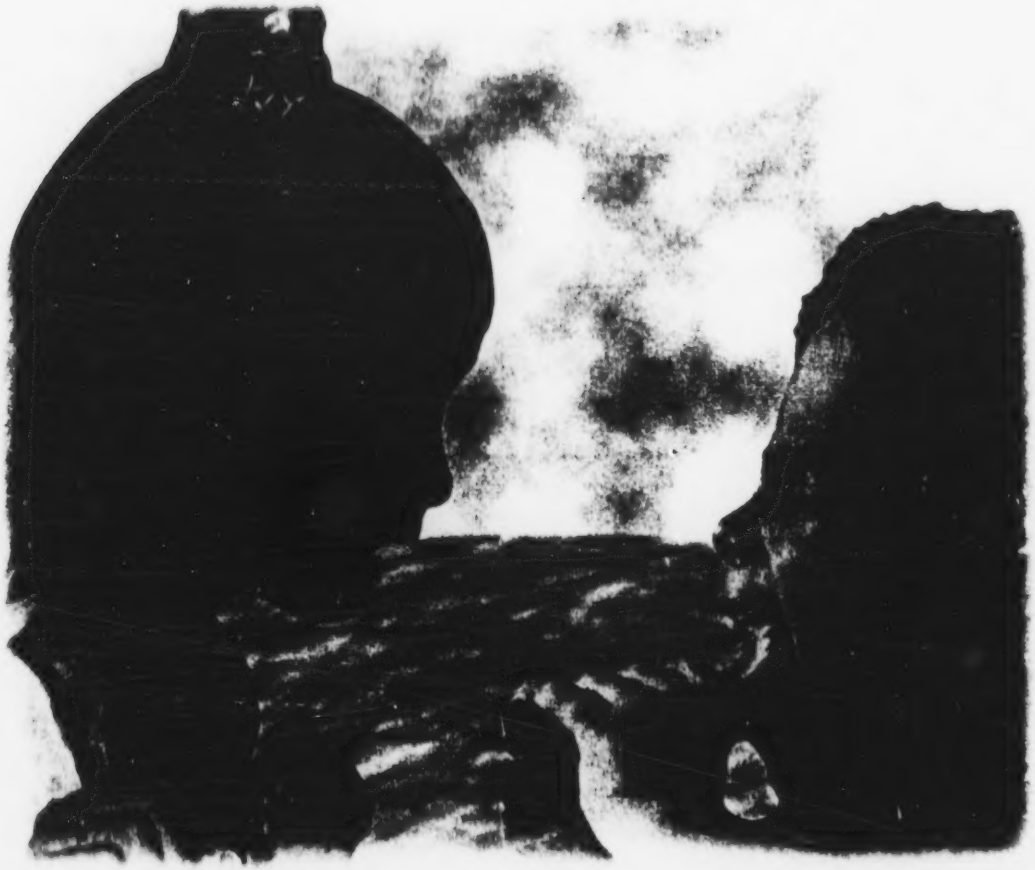
Percent Change 1985 to 1994



INDICATORS	1985	1994	Percent Change
Percent low birth-weight babies	6.9	7.6	-10%
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	8.5	6.5	24%
Child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)	32	34	-6%
Teen violent death rate* (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)	73	74	-1%
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-17)	31	47	-52%
Juvenile violent crime arrest rate (arrests per 100,000 youths ages 10-17)	257	401	-56%
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts (ages 16-19)	13	12	8%
Percent of teens not attending school and not working (ages 16-19)	13	11	15%
Percent of children in poverty	14	16	-14%
Percent of families with children headed by a single parent	25	26	-4%

* See Definitions and Data Sources

Source: *1997 Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being*, Annie E. Casey Foundation



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Health

Low Birth-Weight Babies

Definition

Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies
Babies considered to have low birth weights are those weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth. Low birth-weight data are reported as the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams. The data are reported by mother's county of residence, rather than infant's place of birth.

Significance

How much a baby weighs at birth is directly related to the baby's survival, health and development. Babies weighing less than 5.5 pounds at birth are more likely to experience both physical and developmental problems. At highest risk are babies weighing less than 3.3 pounds. These tiny infants are more likely to suffer from chronic respiratory problems, visual and hearing problems, mental retardation and learning disabilities. [1]

Risk Factors

Smoking cigarettes, poverty, lack of education, inadequate prenatal care, lack of health insurance, and premature birth are all risk factors associated with low birth-weight babies. [2]

Impact

- Although important gains have been made in our ability to sustain babies who are born small, low birth weight remains the number one cause of infant mortality in the United States. [3]
- Babies who are born weighing less than 5.5 pounds are more likely to require special education. Nearly 50 percent of all low birth-weight infants will, at some point in their lives, enter special education programs. [4]
- As a result of recent technological advances in neonatal treatment and procedures, infants weighing less than 1.5 pounds at birth are currently surviving. These babies often suffer from health and developmental disabilities which could have been prevented with good prenatal care. [5]
- The average cost of hospitalization for an infant weighing under 1.5 pounds at birth is approximately $1 million. The estimated cost to the nation for health problems related to low birth-weight babies is more than $4 billion each year. [6]

Nevada

In 1995, the Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies in Nevada was **7.5**. Of the 25,175 babies born in Nevada, 1,881 weighed less than 5.5 pounds. According to the *1997 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, the 1994 Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies in the United States was 7.3.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies ranged from a low of 2.1 in Lincoln County to a high of 13.9 in White Pine County (excluding Esmeralda County whose calculated percentage was not meaningful because it was based on small numbers). Eight Nevada counties had a percentage of low birth-weight babies which was lower than the state rate of **7.5**.

- **Nevada's 1997 National Rank: 32**

If women who were pregnant did not smoke cigarettes, 20 to 30 percent of all low-weight births and 10 percent of all fetal and infant deaths could be prevented. [7]

Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies

1995 Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies (less than 2,500 grams)*	Number <2,500 Grams	Number >2,500 Grams	Total Number of Births	Low Birth-Weight Rates
Carson City	49	663	712	6.9%
Churchill County	19	350	369	5.1%
Clark County	1,229	15,526	16,755	7.3%
Douglas County	18	274	292	6.2%
Elko County	52	669	721	7.2%
Esmeralda County	2	10	12	16.7% **
Eureka County	2	18	20	10.0%
Humboldt County	19	285	304	6.3%
Lander County	13	86	99	13.1%
Lincoln County	1	46	47	2.1%
Lyon County	31	291	322	9.6%
Mineral County	9	94	103	8.7%
Nye County	26	225	251	10.4%
Pershing County	5	57	62	8.1%
Storey County	2	15	17	11.8%
Washoe County	338	4,317	4,655	7.3%
White Pine County	16	99	115	13.9%
Nevada ***	1,881	23,294	25,175	7.5%

* *Based on county of residence. (2,500 grams = 5.5 pounds)*

** *Percents and rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*

*** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

Infant Mortality

Definition

Infant Mortality Rate
The Infant Mortality Rate measures the number of babies who die during their first year of life per 1,000 births. The data are reported by county of residence, rather than place of death.

Significance

The Infant Mortality Rate is a critical indicator of the overall health and welfare of a nation. Because babies are most vulnerable during their first year of life, poor environmental or economic conditions have a significant impact on their health, well-being and survival.

Risk Factors

Communities with multiple problems such as poverty, substandard housing, illiteracy and unemployment tend to have higher Infant Mortality Rates.[8] A recent study cited by the Annie E. Casey Foundation found that the Infant Mortality Rate for poor families was more than 50 percent higher than for families with incomes above the poverty line.[9] Low birth weight, lack of prenatal care, inadequate nutrition, lack of education, premature birth, child maltreatment and poverty all increase the risk of infant mortality.[10]

Impact

- Although the Infant Mortality Rate in the United States has been falling steadily over the past few decades, America still has one of the worst infant mortality rates in the developed world.[11] Twenty-five countries currently have lower Infant Mortality Rates than the United States.[12]

- African-American babies still die at more than twice the rate of White babies in our country. This is true despite the progress made overall.[13]

- Because infant mortality levels reflect the effectiveness of social and health-care measures, improving infant mortality also requires improving the social, economic, environmental and political disparity linked to poor outcomes for children.[14]

- Infant mortality is a barometer of our society as a whole. High rates of infant mortality suggest poor access to health care, lack of prenatal care and high levels of poverty. Children born into poor families also are less likely to have the opportunity to receive neonatal intensive-care services.[15]

Nevada

In 1995, the Infant Mortality Rate in Nevada was **5.5**. Of the 25,175 babies born in Nevada in 1995, a total of 138 infants died before they reached their first birthday. In comparison, according to the *1997 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, the 1994 Infant Morality Rate in the United States was 8.0.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the Infant Mortality Rate ranged from a low of 0.0 in 8 counties to a high of 9.9 in Humboldt County (excluding Esmeralda County because of small population numbers). Of the 17 Nevada counties, 11 had Infant Mortality Rates lower than the state rate of **5.5**.

- **Nevada's 1997 National Rank: 7**

"The true test of a nation is how it cares for its children."

National Commission
to Prevent Infant Mortality

43

Infant Mortality Rate

1995 Infant Mortality Rate
(Deaths to infants less than 1 year old per 1,000 live births)

	Infant Deaths	Number of Births	Infant Mortality Rates
Carson City	5	712	7.0
Churchill County	2	369	5.4
Clark County	89	16,755	5.3
Douglas County	0	292	0.0
Elko County	6	721	8.3
Esmeralda County	0	12	0.0
Eureka County	1	20	50.0 *
Humboldt County	3	304	9.9
Lander County	0	99	0.0
Lincoln County	0	47	0.0
Lyon County	1	322	3.1
Mineral County	0	103	0.0
Nye County	2	251	8.0
Pershing County	0	62	0.0
Storey County	0	17	0.0
Washoe County	29	4,655	6.2
White Pine County	0	115	0.0
Nevada **	138	25,175	5.5

* *Percents and rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*

** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

Economic Well-Being

Children in Poverty

Definition

Percent of Children in Poverty
The Percent of Children in Poverty is the percentage of children under the age of 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold. The poverty threshold is defined as three times the amount it takes to feed a family of four for one year. In 1990, the poverty threshold was $12,674. [16]

Significance

Child poverty in the United States is among the highest in the world. The percentage of children in poverty is one of the most extensively used measurers of child well-being. Child poverty is associated with many poor outcomes for children including illness, poor school performance and delinquency. [17]

Risk Factors

Child poverty is related to every other KIDS COUNT indicator. Children whose parents have not graduated from high school have a greatly increased risk of being poor. [18] Poor children are at greater risk for homelessness, child maltreatment, substandard housing, poor nutrition and dying in infancy. [19]

Impact

- Poor children are three times more likely to die in childhood than children who are not poor. [20]
- A shocking 26 percent of all American children under the age of six are living in poverty. [21]
- Research consistently shows that poverty negatively impacts the physical, emotional and cognitive development of children. [22]
- Children who grow up in poverty are less likely to eat a nutritious diet, to stay warm in the winter, to graduate from high school or to receive adequate health care. [23]
- Poor children are more likely to go without necessary food and clothing, live in substandard housing, lack basic medical care and have unequal access to educational opportunities. [24]
- A child living in poverty is much more likely to become a teen parent and a victim of crime or violence. [25]

Nevada

Thirteen percent of Nevada's children are living in poverty, according to the 1990 Census. Of the 294,759 children under the age of 18 living in Nevada, 38,232 are living in poverty.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the percentage of children in poverty ranged from a low of 6.8 percent in Storey County to a high of 19 percent in Esmeralda County. Six counties had higher percentages of children living in poverty than the state rate of **13.0**. Eleven counties had lower percentages of children in poverty than the state rate.

- **Nevada's 1997 National Rank: 17**

"It is a spiritually impoverished nation that permits infants and children to be the poorest Americans."

Marion Wright Edelman

Percent of Children in Poverty

Percent of Children in Poverty* (Children under age 18)	Number of Children in Poverty	Population of Children Under Age 18	Percent of Children in Poverty
Carson City	880	9,038	9.7%
Churchill County	543	5,111	10.6%
Clark County	25,371	180,604	14.0%
Douglas County	602	7,159	8.4%
Elko County	1,182	10,696	11.1%
Esmeralda County	60	316	19.0%
Eureka County	46	428	10.7%
Humboldt County	487	3,861	12.6%
Lander County	235	2,115	11.1%
Lincoln County	174	1,279	13.6%
Lyon County	811	5,406	15.0%
Mineral County	211	1,830	11.5%
Nye County	506	4,283	11.8%
Pershing County	189	1,346	14.0%
Storey County	39	573	6.8%
Washoe County	6,546	58,155	11.3%
White Pine County	350	2,559	13.7%
Nevada	38,232	294,759	13.0%

* *See Definitions and Data Sources*

Source: 1990 United States Census of Population and Housing

Children in Single-Parent Families

Definition

Percent of Families With Children Headed by a Single Parent
This indicator is defined as the percentage of families with "own children" under the age of 18 (headed by either a male or female) without a spouse present in the home. "Own children" is defined as never-married children related by birth, marriage or adoption.

Significance

Children living in single-parent families do not have the same resources and opportunities as those living in two-parent families. [26] When the single parent is a woman, the risk of sinking into poverty is significantly greater due to the wide earnings gap between men and women in the United States. [27]

Risk Factors

Many single parents, most of whom are single mothers, receive insufficient child support which puts their children at greater risk for all the adverse outcomes linked to poverty. Children growing up in single-parent families are at greater risk of homelessness, substandard housing, poor nutrition and dying in childhood. [28]

Impact

- Sixty percent of all children in the United States today will spend some part of their childhood in a single-parent family. [29]
- The percentage of single-parent families has increased steadily over the past twenty years and is an area of heightened concern among policy-makers and the public. The increase in the percentage of single-parent families has been a central focus in the debate on welfare reform. [30]
- Sixty-six percent of never-married mothers and 38 percent of divorced mothers with children under the age of 18 had incomes below the poverty threshold in 1992. [31]
- Young women from single-parent families give birth as teenagers more frequently than young women from two-parent families. [32]
- Of the single-parent families headed by mothers, less than one-third received child-support payments or alimony in 1994. [33]

Nevada

Twenty-eight percent of Nevada families with children were headed by a single parent, according to the 1990 Census. Of the 153,893 families in Nevada, a total of 43,096 were single-parent families. In comparison, the 1994 Percent of Families With Children Headed by a Single Parent in the United States was 26 percent. [34]

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the Percent of Families With Children Headed by a Single Parent ranged from a low of 11 percent in Eureka County to a high of 30.3 percent in Clark County. Only two counties, Clark and Mineral, had a higher percentage of single-parent families than the state rate of 28 percent.

- **Nevada's 1997 National Rank: 31**

"The test of our progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have much. It is whether we provide enough for those who have little."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Percent of Families Headed by a Single Parent

Percent of Families* With Children Headed by a Single Parent				
	Single-Parent Families With Children	Two-Parent Families With Children	Total Number of Families	Percent of Families Headed by a Single Parent
Carson City	1,344	3,541	4,885	27.5%
Churchill County	518	1,987	2,505	20.7%
Clark County	28,435	65,459	93,894	30.3%
Douglas County	803	2,956	3,759	21.4%
Elko County	1,061	4,197	5,258	20.2%
Esmeralda County	38	116	154	24.7%
Eureka County	22	178	200	11.0%
Humboldt County	363	1,516	1,879	19.3%
Lander County	175	859	1,034	16.9%
Lincoln County	94	372	466	20.2%
Lyon County	578	2,108	2,686	21.5%
Mineral County	259	653	912	28.4%
Nye County	410	1,791	2,201	18.6%
Pershing County	122	495	617	19.8%
Storey County	63	252	315	20.0%
Washoe County	8,573	23,334	31,907	26.9%
White Pine County	238	983	1,221	19.5%
Nevada	43,096	110,797	153,893	28.0%

* *See Definitions and Data Sources*

Source: 1990 United States Census of Population and Housing

Percent of Families in Poverty

Percent of Families* in Poverty*

	Total Number of All Families	Number in Poverty: Female Headed	Male Headed	Married Couple	Total Families in Poverty	Percent in Poverty Headed by Females	Percent in Poverty Headed by Males	Percent in Poverty Headed by Couple	Percent of Families in Poverty
Carson City	4,885	360	28	441	829	43.4%	3.4%	53.2%	17.0%
Churchill County	2,505	272	20	230	522	52.1%	3.8%	44.1%	20.8%
Clark County	93,894	14,663	1,564	8,127	24,354	60.2%	6.4%	33.4%	25.9%
Douglas County	3,759	245	59	273	577	42.5%	10.2%	47.3%	15.3%
Elko County	5,258	497	71	539	1,107	44.9%	6.4%	48.7%	21.1%
Esmeralda County	154	25	0	27	52	48.1%	0.0%	51.9%	33.8%
Eureka County	200	14	4	26	44	31.8%	9.1%	59.1%	22.0%
Humboldt County	1,879	263	37	172	472	55.7%	7.8%	36.4%	25.1%
Lander County	1,034	106	3	110	219	48.4%	1.4%	50.2%	21.2%
Lincoln County	466	145	0	27	172	84.3%	0.0%	15.7%	36.9%
Lyon County	2,686	288	37	448	773	37.3%	4.8%	58.0%	28.8%
Mineral County	912	106	30	64	200	53.0%	15.0%	32.0%	21.9%
Nye County	2,201	220	31	232	483	45.5%	6.4%	48.0%	21.9%
Pershing County	617	79	28	76	183	43.2%	15.3%	41.5%	29.7%
Storey County	315	14	11	10	35	40.0%	31.4%	28.6%	11.1%
Washoe County	31,907	2,926	526	2,637	6,089	48.1%	8.6%	43.3%	19.1%
White Pine County	1,221	166	3	175	344	48.3%	0.9%	50.9%	28.2%
Nevada	153,893	20,389	2,452	13,614	36,455	55.9%	6.7%	37.3%	23.7%

* *See Definitions and Data Sources*

Source: 1990 United States Census of Population and Housing

Teen Births

Teen Births

Definition

Teen Birth Rate
The Teen Birth Rate is the number of births to teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17, per 1,000 females. The data are reported by mother's county of residence, rather than infant's place of birth.

Significance

Teen parenthood reduces life opportunities for both teen mothers and their children. Becoming a parent while still a teenager is difficult because most teen mothers are not married, have not completed high school and are unable to financially support their children. [35]

Risk Factors

At especially high risk of becoming teen parents are teens living in poverty, teens from dysfunctional families and teens not doing well in school. [36] Babies born to teen parents also face a number of risks. Because teen parents have fewer career and educational opportunities, their children are more likely to suffer the devastating effects of poverty including low birth weight, poor health, learning problems, maltreatment and ultimately becoming teen parents themselves. [37]

Impact

- Becoming a teen parent significantly reduces education and employment potential and possibilities. In the United States, three out of five teen mothers drop out of high school. [38]
- The lifetime earnings of teen mothers are less than half those of women who defer childbearing until age twenty. [39]
- Children born to teens are more likely to drop out of school, depend on welfare and become teen parents. [40]

Unmarried Teen Parents

- Because of the strong correlation between single parenthood and poverty, the Unmarried Teen Birth Rate is an important predictor of children's economic well-being. Unmarried teens are much less likely to receive child-support payments which makes it difficult for them to support their children financially. [41]
- Failure in school, emotional problems, delinquency and substance abuse are more common among children of unmarried teenage mothers. [42]

Nevada

In 1995, the Teen Birth Rate in Nevada was **21.7** per 1,000 females, ages 15-17. According to the *1997 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, the Teen Birth Rate in Nevada increased by more than 50 percent between 1985 and 1994.

The Unmarried Teen Birth Rate in Nevada for 1995 was 16.2 births per 1,000 females, ages 15-17. It is important to note that 75 percent of the births to teens in Nevada were births to unmarried teens.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the Teen Birth Rate ranged from a low of 0.0 births per 1,000 females, ages 15-17 in Esmeralda County to a high of 41.1 in Mineral County. However, it should be noted that rates based on small numbers should be interpreted with caution.

The Unmarried Teen Birth Rate ranged from a low of 0.0 in Esmeralda, Eureka and Lincoln counties to a high of 37.7 in Mineral County. Again, it must be noted that rates based on small numbers should be interpreted with caution.

- **Nevada's 1997 National Rank: 42**

Teen Birth Rate

1995 Teen Birth Rate (Births per 1,000 teens, ages 15-17)	Births to Teens	Population Ages 15-17	Teen Birth Rates*
Carson City	34	1,567	21.7
Churchill County	19	946	20.1
Clark County	853	36,799	23.2
Douglas County	7	1,488	4.7
Elko County	39	2,071	18.8
Esmeralda County	0	64	0.0
Eureka County	1	75	13.3
Humboldt County	22	752	29.3
Lander County	4	348	11.5
Lincoln County	2	218	9.2
Lyon County	18	1,154	15.6
Mineral County	12	292	41.1
Nye County	12	915	13.1
Pershing County	3	230	13.0
Storey County	1	132	7.6
Washoe County	195	9,723	20.1
White Pine County	6	449	13.4
Nevada **	1,241	57,230	21.7

* *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*

** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

Unmarried Teen Birth Rate

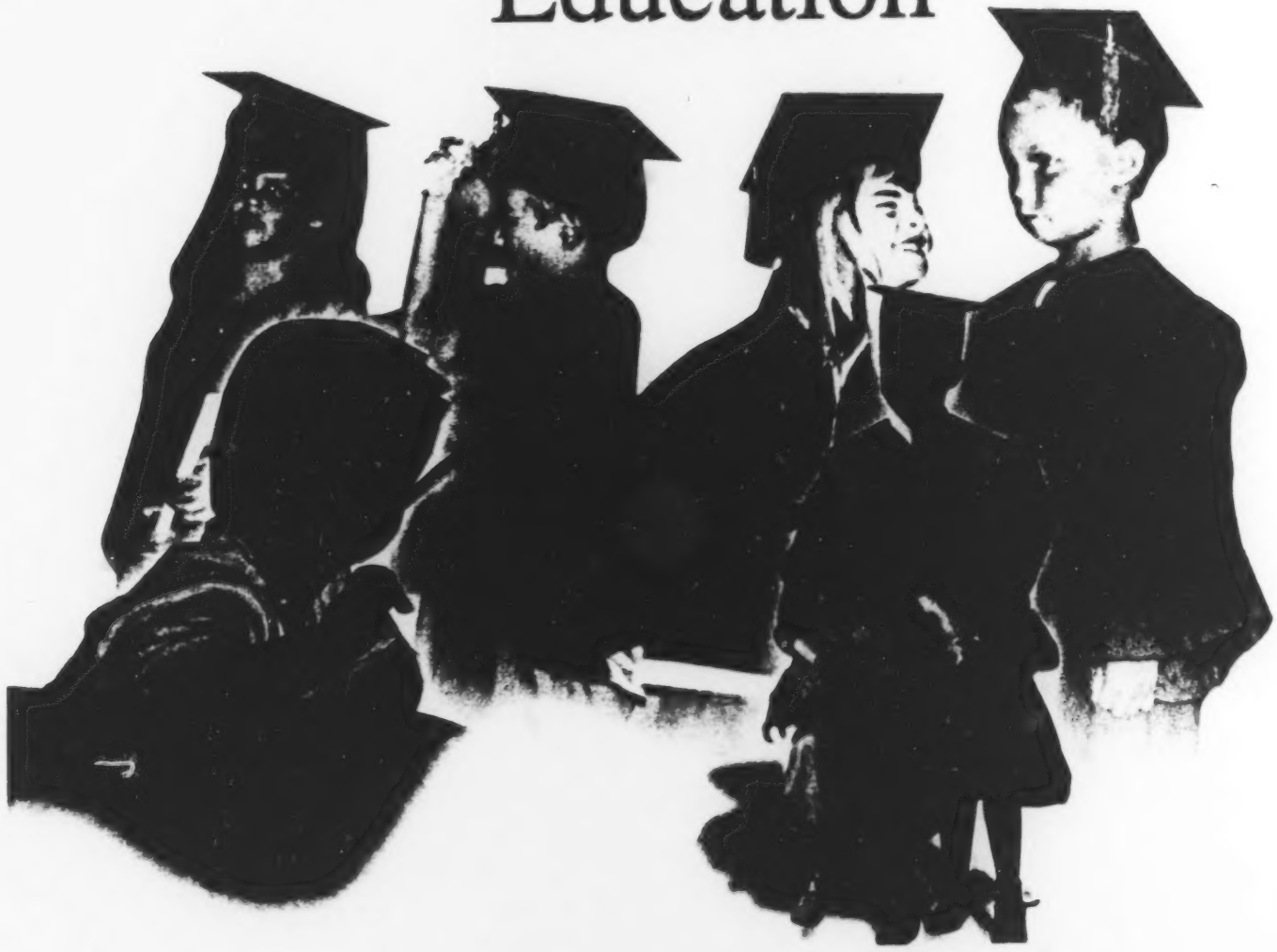
1995 Unmarried Teen Birth Rate (Births per 1,000 teens, ages 15-17)	Births to Unmarried Teens	Population Ages 15-17	Unmarried Teen Birth Rates
Carson City	26	1,567	16.6
Churchill County	15	946	15.9
Clark County	659	36,799	17.9
Douglas County	5	1,488	3.4
Elko County	1	2,071	0.5
Esmeralda County	0	64	0.0
Eureka County	0	75	0.0
Humboldt County	7	752	9.3
Lander County	2	348	5.7
Lincoln County	0	218	0.0
Lyon County	13	1,154	11.3
Mineral County	11	292	37.7 *
Nye County	10	915	10.9
Pershing County	2	230	8.7
Storey County	1	132	7.6
Washoe County	151	9,723	15.5
White Pine County	5	449	11.1
Nevada **	926	57,230	16.2

* *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*

** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

Education



High School Dropouts and Graduates

Definition

Percent of Students Who Are High School Dropouts and Graduates
This indicator is defined as the percentage of students enrolled in grades 9-12 who drop out of high school or graduate.

Significance

Students who drop out of high school face staggering odds in achieving economic success in the modern world. High school graduation is a minimum prerequisite to compete effectively in today's labor market. In the age of high technology, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to build a life and become a contributing member of society. With each advancing year, the prospects for those who have not completed high school become more and more bleak. [43]

Risk Factors

Students are more likely to drop out of school when they are poor, when they live in low-income communities and when they come from single-parent families. [44] Early warning signs that a student is at risk are the inability to read at grade level, poor grades, truancy, substance abuse and teen pregnancy. [45]

Impact

- Unemployment rates of high school dropouts are more than twice those of high school graduates. [46]
- The probability of falling into poverty is three times higher for high school dropouts than for those who have finished high school. [47]
- The median personal income of high school graduates, during the prime earning years (ages 25-54), is nearly twice that of high school dropouts. The median personal income of college graduates is more than three times that of high school dropouts. [48]
- Between 1992 and 1993, 5.1 percent of high school dropouts entered poverty compared with only 1.8 percent of high school graduates. [49]
- Among prisoners in the United States, 82 percent are high school dropouts. [50]
- The children of high school dropouts have a much greater chance of dropping out of school. [51]

Nevada

In 1995, the percentage of students who were high school dropouts in Nevada (grades 9-12) was **10.2** percent. The dropout rates were highest in grades 11 and 12. The percentage of students who dropped out in grades 11-12 was 12.8. In contrast, 73.5 percent of students in Nevada who entered high school subsequently graduated.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the percentage of students who were high school dropouts (grades 9-12) ranged from a low of 0.0 in Eureka County to a high of 13.7 percent in Storey County. The percentage of students who were high school graduates ranged from a low of 70.7 percent in Clark County to a high of 93.3 percent in Eureka County.

- **Nevada's 1997 National Rate: 44**

"As America moves into the 21st century, when advanced skills and technical knowledge will be required for most good-paying jobs, the prospects for those who have not completed high school will be even more dismal."

1997 KIDS COUNT Data Book

Percent of High School Dropouts and Graduates

1995 Percent of High School Dropouts and Graduates	Percent of Dropouts Grades 9-12	Percent of Dropouts Grades 10-12	Percent of High School Graduates*
Carson City	6.2%	7.7%	74.1%
Churchill County	10.1%	11.8%	83.3%
Clark County	12.1%	15.2%	70.7%
Douglas County	3.3%	3.7%	73.3%
Elko County	6.1%	7.5%	91.2%
Esmeralda County**	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eureka County	0.0%	0.0%	93.3%
Humboldt County	6.0%	7.1%	83.4%
Lander County	9.6%	9.1%	76.7%
Lincoln County	0.7%	0.6%	75.2%
Lyon County	6.7%	8.4%	77.6%
Mineral County	7.8%	8.9%	86.1%
Nye County	7.2%	8.5%	87.8%
Pershing County	2.4%	3.4%	81.1%
Storey County	13.7%	10.7%	88.6%
Washoe County	8.6%	10.6%	74.1%
White Pine County	6.6%	7.1%	86.5%
Nevada	10.2%	12.8%	73.5%

* *This column refers to Seniors only. See Definitions and Data Sources*

** *Esmeralda students (grades 9 -12) attend school in neighboring Nye County*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Education: Planning, Research and Evaluation Branch

Teens Not in School and Not Working

Definition

Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working
The Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working reflects the percentage of teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full-time or part-time) are not employed and are not in the military.

Significance

Teens who spend extended periods of time without working, attending school or enlisting in the military are disconnected from society because they are not engaged in any of the key activities so critical to development in the period of late adolescence. [52] Gaps in schooling and lack of preparation for the workforce place teens at a considerable disadvantage as they make the difficult transition from adolescence to adulthood. [53]

Risk Factors

Teens who are not in school and not working are at increased risk of juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, juvenile crime, teen pregnancy and poverty. Teens who have dropped out of school are at greatest risk. [54]

Impact

- Appropriate work experience is crucial during late adolescence. Young people who are unemployed for extended periods of time will face enormous challenges finding and keeping jobs later in their lives. [55]
- There are enormous obstacles facing teens with few skills and little education as they attempt to progress from the minimum wage labor market to being able to support themselves and their families. [56]
- Low-level skills and low-level wages make it extremely difficult for young men and women to support their families and have a standard of living that is above the poverty threshold. [57]
- When young people have been out of the mainstream and disconnected from society for three or more years, an estimated 37 percent of young women and 35 percent of young men are at significant risk of giving birth to or fathering a child before they reach the age of 18. [58]

Nevada

The Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working in Nevada is **7.6** percent. Of the 59,919 teens between the ages of 16 and 19 in Nevada, 4,564 teens were not in school and not working.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the percentage of teens not in school and not working ranged from a low of 1.3 percent in Lincoln County to a high of 13.7 percent in White Pine County (excluding Esmeralda and Storey counties whose calculated percentages were based on numbers too small to be meaningful).

"Too many young people of all colors and all walks of life—are growing up today unable to handle life in hard places, without hope, without adequate attention, and without steady internal compasses to navigate the morally polluted seas they must face on the journey to adulthood."

Marian Wright Edelman

Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working

Percent of Teens Who Are Not in School and Not Working (Ages 16-19)			
	Teens Not in School or Working	Population Ages 16-19	Percent of Teens Not in School or Working
Carson City	103	1,861	5.5%
Churchill County	17	937	1.8%
Clark County	2,861	37,065	7.7%
Douglas County	45	1,138	4.0%
Elko County	173	1,950	8.9%
Esmeralda County	13	71	18.3% *
Eureka County	5	54	9.3%
Humboldt County	25	636	3.9%
Lander County	45	368	12.2%
Lincoln County	3	235	1.3%
Lyon County	110	1,005	10.9%
Mineral County	52	434	12.0%
Nye County	79	809	9.8%
Pershing County	19	208	9.1%
Storey County	15	98	15.3% *
Washoe County	945	12,657	7.5%
White Pine County	54	393	13.7%
Nevada	4,564	59,919	7.6%

* *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*

Source: 1990 United States Census of Population and Housing

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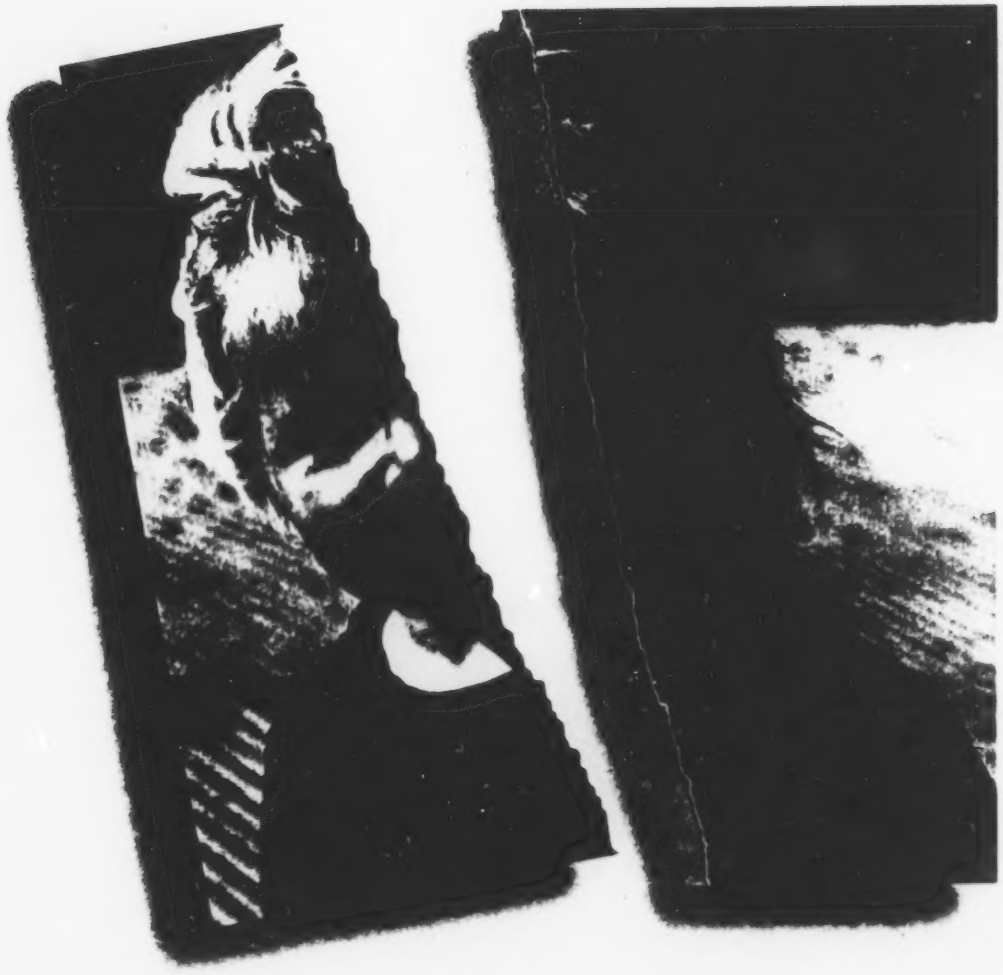

Children in Danger

Child Death Rate

Definition

Child Death Rate
The Child Death Rate is the number of deaths (from all causes) of children between the ages of 1 and 14, per 100,000 children. The data are reported by place of residence, rather than by place of death.

Significance

The Child Death Rate is a reflection of the physical health of children, the dangers children are exposed to at home and in the community and the level of adult supervision children receive. [59] Once children survive the first year of life, mortality drops significantly. [60]

Risk Factors

Poverty, lack of education, inadequate prenatal care, lack of health insurance, low birth weight, substandard living conditions, substance abuse, child maltreatment and lack of adult supervision are all risk factors associated with the Child Death Rate. [61]

Impact

- The Child Death Rate reflects the risks that are fatal to children including health problems, exposure to hazardous conditions, preventable injuries and child abuse and neglect. [62]
- According to the *1997 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, in 1994, 15,264 children between the ages of 1 and 14 died in the United States. This means that 29 out of every 100,000 children in this age range died. [63]
- As a result of technological advances in medical treatment and procedures, the Child Death Rate in the United States has decreased during the past several years. Unintentional injuries remain the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4. [64]
- There is now overwhelming evidence from around the world that positioning young infants on their back or sides may decrease the rate of deaths caused by Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) by as much as 50 percent. [65]

Nevada

In 1995, a total of 93 children between the ages of 1 and 14 died in Nevada. The Child Death Rate in Nevada for 1995 was **28.8** per 100,000 children. In comparison, according to the *1997 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, the 1994 Child Death Rate in the United States was 29.0 per 100,000 children between the ages of 1 and 14.

Counties

The Child Death Rate broken down by county was not meaningful because the data were based on small numbers.

"Many things we need can wait. The child cannot. Now is the time his bones are being formed; his blood being made; his mind being developed. To him we cannot say tomorrow. His name is today."

Gabriela Mistral

83

Child Death Rate

1995 Child Deaths and Death Rate (Deaths per 100,000 children, ages 1-14)	Child Deaths	Population Ages 1-14	Child Death Rates
Carson City	0	8,353	0.0
Churchill County	0	4,575	0.0
Clark County	58	212,595	27.3
Douglas County	2	7,175	27.9
Elko County	4	10,464	38.2
Esmeralda County	0	301	0.0
Eureka County	1	324	308.6 *
Humboldt County	1	3,736	26.8
Lander County	0	1,612	0.0
Lincoln County	0	858	0.0
Lyon County	6	5,442	110.3 *
Mineral County	0	1,429	0.0
Nye County	3	4,362	68.8 *
Pershing County	3	1,268	236.6 *
Storey County	0	598	0.0
Washoe County	14	57,953	24.2
White Pine County	1	1,997	50.1
Nevada **	93	322,534	28.8

* *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*

** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

Child Abuse and Neglect

Definition

Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate
Child abuse is defined as the non-accidental injury or pattern of injuries to a child under the age of 18. Child abuse includes physical injury, neglect, emotional abuse and sexual molestation. In Nevada, child abuse is further defined by type of maltreatment. [66]

The child abuse and neglect rate can be measured in two principle ways. The most commonly used measure is the number of reports of child abuse and neglect, per 1,000 children, under the age of 18. [67] The other, perhaps more valid measure, is the total number of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect, per 1,000 children, under the age of 18. [68] Because experts differ on which is the more valid measure, in this report child abuse and neglect rates are reported both ways. [69]

Significance

The consequences of child abuse and neglect are overwhelming. Child maltreatment can result in death, permanent disability, delayed development, mental and behavioral problems, teen pregnancy, criminal behavior, depression and suicide. [70]

Impact

- The impact of child abuse on children, on families and on society is profound and devastating. Three children die each day in the United States, as a result of child abuse and neglect. [71]
- The vast majority of children who die from child maltreatment are very young: 82 percent of the victims are under the age of five and 42 percent are less than one year old at the time of their death. [72]
- The economic consequences of child abuse and neglect are staggering. Each year, it costs the nation an estimated $9 billion dollars to deal with the tragic and far-reaching consequences of child maltreatment. [73]
- Research indicates that parents who were abused as children are at significantly higher risk of abusing their own children. [74]
- Ninety percent of juvenile offenders and adult prisoners report being abused as children. [75]

Nevada

In 1995, the Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate in Nevada was **31.4** per 1,000 children, under age 18. Overall, there were 12,716 reported cases of suspected child abuse and neglect.

The 1995 substantiated child abuse and neglect rate in Nevada was **11.7** per 1,000 children, under age 18. Of the 12,716 reported cases of child abuse and neglect, 4,729 were substantiated.

Counties

Excluding the three counties (Churchill, Lander and White Pine) whose calculated rates were not meaningful because they were based on small numbers, the Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate ranged from a low of 7.2 in Eureka County to a high of 58.3 in Pershing County. The substantiated child abuse rate ranged from a low of 0.9 in Lincoln County to a high of 30.2 in Mineral County.

"The brains of traumatized children develop as if the entire world is chaotic, unpredictable, violent, frightening and devoid of nurturance."

Dr. Brue Perry

Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate

1995 Child Abuse and Neglect Report Rate*
(Reports per 1,000 children, age 17 or less)

	Total Reports	Substantiated**	Unsubstantiated**	Unknown**	Population Ages 17 or Less	Substantiated Child Abuse Rates	Reported Child Abuse Rates
Carson City	581	148	415	18	10,632	13.9	54.6
Churchill County	456	125	315	16	5,890	21.2	77.4 ***
Clark County	6,016	2,840	2,742	434	266,149	10.7	22.6
Douglas County	143	31	106	6	8,955	3.5	16.0
Elko County	615	127	450	38	13,256	9.6	46.4
Esmeralda County	13	3	6	4	377	8.0	34.5
Eureka County	3	3	0	0	419	7.2	7.2
Humboldt County	148	51	87	10	4,792	10.6	30.9
Lander County	143	23	109	11	2,059	11.2	69.5 ***
Lincoln County	10	1	9	0	1,123	0.9	8.9
Lyon County	389	104	246	39	6,918	15.0	56.2
Mineral County	105	55	44	6	1,824	30.2	57.6
Nye County	144	65	48	31	5,528	11.8	26.0
Pershing County	91	44	46	1	1,560	28.2	58.3
Storey County	29	6	21	2	747	8.0	38.8
Washoe County	3,668	1,065	2,129	474	72,331	14.7	50.7
White Pine County	162	38	117	7	2,561	14.8	63.3 ***
Nevada	12,716	4,729	6,890	1,097	404,939	11.7	31.4

* *Reported by county of occurrence*
** *See Definitions and Data Sources*
*** *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*
Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child and Family Services

Child Deaths From Abuse

Three children die every day in the United States as a result of child abuse. [76] As inconceivable and unconscionable as that reality is, it may represent only the tip of the iceberg. The number of children who die from child abuse is not tracked accurately and comprehensively in much of the nation. Though a few states are doing an outstanding job of tracking child deaths from abuse, Nevada is not one of those states.

The exact number of children who die from child abuse in Nevada each year is not known. Currently, the data on child deaths from abuse in Nevada are not reliable because of inconsistencies in collection methods from county to county and lack of integration among the three relevant data bases: the Office of Vital Records and Statistics death certificate information, the Child Abuse Central Registry statistics and the Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety criminal repository data. For example, although the Central Registry, maintained by the Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child and Family Services, clearly indicates that five children died from child maltreatment in 1995, a search of the other relevant sources would seem to suggest that no children died from child abuse in 1995. Until these challenges are overcome, it will remain impossible to determine how many children died from child abuse in Nevada during any given period of time.

Children are dying from child abuse in America every day and they are dying in epidemic proportions. Nevada is no exception. Although we do not know the exact number, we do know that in 1995, no less than five children died from child abuse in Nevada. [77] Although it is easier to look away from so harsh a reality, to do so will push more children into harm's way. In light of this, Nevada KIDS COUNT makes the following recommendations:

1) **The information on child deaths from abuse contained in the three relevant data bases should be considered in light of each other;**

2) **A process to integrate the three relevant data bases and the technology to implement this integration should be developed, adopted and implemented;**

3) **A statewide umbrella Child Death Review Team should be enacted. The statewide team would pull together information from the existing Child Death Review teams and make statewide policy recommendations concerning data collection, prevention of child deaths from abuse and system changes needed to more effectively respond to child abuse and neglect deaths.**

Teen Violent Death

And Crime

Juvenile Violent Crime

Definition

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate
The Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate reflects the rate at which youths between the ages of 10 and 17 are arrested for violent crimes. In Nevada, juvenile violent crime includes murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

Significance

The majority of adolescent misbehavior reflects boundary-testing and experimentation with adult roles. However, being arrested for a violent crime is clearly a negative outcome for a young person and could have consequences which last a lifetime. [78]

Risk Factors

Risk factors for juvenile violent crime include poverty, lack of education, limited job skills, child abuse and neglect, family violence and inadequate supervision. [79] Also linked to juvenile violent crime are poor school performance, chronic truancy and prior criminal history. [80]

Impact

- Research consistently suggests that youth who become involved in juvenile crime frequently have mental health problems prior to being incarcerated. [81]
- Incarcerated youth demonstrate significantly higher levels of psychopathology than non-incarcerated youth. [82]
- Youth who are jailed in adult facilities may be more likely to commit suicide than those held in juvenile facilities. [83]
- According to the *1997 KIDS COUNT Data Book*, most law enforcement officials agree that educational and preventative services are more likely to be a deterrent to juvenile crime than building more prisons. [84]
- Research suggests that most law enforcement officials believe crime could be sharply reduced if the government invested more money and commitment in prevention programs to help children and youth now. [85]

Nevada

In 1995, the Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate in Nevada was **387.7** arrests per 100,000 youth, ages 10-17. Among the 164,836 juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 in Nevada, there were 639 violent crime arrests.

Counties

Among the 17 counties in Nevada, the Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate ranged from a low of 0.0 in seven counties to a high of 577.4 in one county. It should again be stressed that calculated rates which are based on small numbers should be interpreted with caution.

"... if America does not pay for needed investments in programs to help youth and children now, we will all pay far more in crime later."

1997 KIDS COUNT Data Book

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate

1995 Juvenile Violent Crime* Arrest Rate (Arrests per 100,000 teens, ages 10-17)	Juvenile Violent Crimes	Population Ages 10-17	Juvenile Violent Crime Rates**
Carson City	26	4,519	575.4
Churchill County	0	2,687	0.0
Clark County	478	106,147	450.3
Douglas County	5	4,135	120.9
Elko County	14	5,939	235.7
Esmeralda County	1	173	577.4
Eureka County	0	181	0.0
Humboldt County	10	2,170	460.9
Lander County	2	946	211.4
Lincoln County	0	563	0.0
Lyon County	0	3,250	0.0
Mineral County	0	807	0.0
Nye County	14	2,518	556.0
Pershing County	3	676	443.5
Storey County	0	346	0.0
Washoe County	86	28,525	301.5
White Pine County	0	1,224	0.0
Nevada ***	639	164,836	387.7

* *Juvenile Violent Crime includes: Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter, Rape, Robbery and Aggravated Assault.*

** *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution.*

*** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data.*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety, Nevada Highway Patrol Records and Identification Services.

Teen Violent Death Rate

Definition

Teen Violent Death Rate
The Teen Violent Death Rate is the number of deaths from homicides, suicide, and accidents, per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19. The data are reported by county of residence, rather than by county where the deaths occurred.

Significance

The transition to adulthood presents teens of all ages with increased health and safety risks. While there is a public perception that violence in the United States is increasing rapidly, it is noteworthy that accidents actually account for more teen deaths than any other source. [86] Although there has been a steady decline in teen deaths due to motor vehicle accidents, this reduction has been offset by a marked increase in the number of teen deaths due to homicide. [87]

Risk Factors

Research indicates that poverty, the increased availability of handguns and the rise in gang activity are all risk factors associated with teen violent death. [88]

Impact

- Automobile accidents, homicides and suicides are the leading causes of violent death among American teens. [89]
- In the United States, 3 out of 4 homicides and 2 out of 3 suicide victims, under the age of 25, die from gunshot wounds. [90]
- African-American teens have the highest homicide rates in the United States, followed by Hispanic teens who have the second-highest rates. [91]
- Native American teens have the highest suicide rates of any group in the United States. [92]
- The average medical cost for treating a youth with a gunshot wound is estimated to be $14,000. This amount does not include physician charges or rehabilitation charges. [93]
- Thirty-one percent of completed teen suicides in the United States are committed by gay and lesbian teens. [94]

Nevada

In 1995, the Teen Violent Death Rate in Nevada was **78.6** deaths per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19. Of the 95,384 teens between the ages of 15 and 19 in Nevada, 75 teens died violent deaths, 44 from motor-vehicle accidents. [95] Teen homicides have remained relatively stable in Nevada since 1990. [96]

Counties

Excluding the four counties (Humboldt, Lander, Mineral and White Pine) whose rates were not meaningful because they were based on small population numbers, the Teen Violent Death Rate ranged from a low of 0.0 in six counties, to a high of 144.9 in Elko County. Caution is recommended when interpreting calculated rates based on small numbers.

"Probably no group of people in this country is in poorer shape than young adults. Death rates for all other age groups are down while the death rate for young adults is up."

David Baken

Teen Violent Death Rate

1995 Teen Violent Death Rate* (Deaths per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19)	Teen Violent Deaths	Population Ages 15-19	Teen Violent Death * Rates
Carson City	0	2,611	0.0
Churchill County	**2**	**1,577**	**126.8**
Clark County	42	61,331	68.5
Douglas County	**2**	**2,480**	**80.6**
Elko County	5	3,451	144.9
Esmeralda County	**0**	**107**	**0.0**
Eureka County	0	125	0.0
Humboldt County	**2**	**1,253**	**159.6** **
Lander County	1	580	172.4 **
Lincoln County	**0**	**363**	**0.0**
Lyon County	1	1,923	52.0
Mineral County	**1**	**486**	**205.8** **
Nye County	1	1,525	65.6
Pershing County	**0**	**384**	**0.0**
Storey County	0	220	0.0
Washoe County	**14**	**16,205**	**86.4**
White Pine County	4	748	534.8 **
Nevada ***	75	95,384	78.6

* *Teen Violent Deaths includes: homicide, suicide and accidents.*
** *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*
*** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*
Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

Teen Suicide Rate

1995 Teen Suicide Death Rate (Deaths per 100,000 teens, ages 15-19)	Teen Suicide Deaths	Population Ages 15-19	Teen Suicide Death Rates
Carson City	0	2,611	0.0
Churchill County	0	1,577	0.0
Clark County	11	61,331	17.9
Douglas County	1	2,480	40.3
Elko County	4	3,451	115.9 *
Esmeralda County	0	107	0.0
Eureka County	0	125	0.0
Humboldt County	0	1,253	0.0
Lander County	1	580	172.4 *
Lincoln County	0	363	0.0
Lyon County	0	1,923	0.0
Mineral County	0	486	0.0
Nye County	0	1,525	0.0
Pershing County	0	384	0.0
Storey County	0	220	0.0
Washoe County	6	16,205	37.0
White Pine County	1	748	133.7 *
Nevada **	24	95,384	25.2

* *Rates based on small numbers should be used with caution*

** *The sum of the counties may not equal the state total due to missing or incomplete county reference data*

Source: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics

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Definitions and Data Sources

The 1997 Nevada KIDS COUNT Data Book provides data on fifteen indicators of child well-being. For optimal clarity the data are presented in three different formats: numbers, percents and rates.

Numbers are useful to examine the extent or scope of the problem and to assess the potential costs and benefits. A rate is a measure of the probability of an occurrence and is calculated by dividing the number of occurrences by the population at risk of the occurrence. Rates are useful to compare the severity of a problem in one geographic area to another (county, state, nation) and to look at trends over time. A percent may be considered as another measure of the probability of an occurrence.

In this publication, the formula used for calculating percents or rates is the number of occurrences, divided by the population at risk for the occurrence and multiplied by 100 for calculating percents and by 1,000 or 100,000 for calculating rates. Caution should be used when attempting to interpret calculated rates and percents that are based on small numbers. Counties with small populations may have skewed rates. If the calculated rate for the county was two times more than the calculated rate for the state, the county rate was published with a cautionary footnote. Counties with less than five occurrences of the indicator were designated with 0.0.

It is important to recognize that no data are perfect and in any data collection process there may be concerns about the accuracy and completeness of the data. In all cases, the best available data were used. It should be noted that in a few of the data tables the sum of the county data may not always equal the state total due to rounding and/or missing or incomplete county reference data. In these cases, an explanatory footnote is included.

Percent Low Birth-Weight Babies is the percentage of live births weighing under 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). The data are reported by place of mother's county of residence, not infant's place of birth. Births of unknown weight are not included in these calculations.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995.

Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) is the number of deaths occurring to infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births. The data are reported by county of residence, not place of death.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995.

Percent of Children in Poverty is the share of children under 18 who live in families with incomes below the U. S. poverty threshold, as defined by the U. S. Office of Management and Budget. Only children who live in a household where they are related to the head of the household (referred to as the householder by the Census Bureau) are included in this analysis. These "related children" include the householder's children by birth, marriage or adoption, as well as other persons under the age of 18, such as nieces or nephews, who are related to the head of the household.

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3A.

Percent of Families with Children Headed by a Single Parent is the percentage of all families with "own children" under age 18 who are headed by a person-male or female-without a spouse present in the home. "Own children" are never-married children under 18 who are related to the household head by birth, marriage or adoption.

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3A.

Definitions and Data Sources

Teen Birth Rate, Ages 15-17 (births per 1,000 females) is the number of births to teenagers between ages 15 and 17 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data reflect the mother's place of residence. This measure of teenage childbearing focuses on the fertility of all girls ages 15-17, regardless of marital status.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995.

Unmarried Teen Birth Rate, Ages 15-17 (births per 1,000 females) is the number of births to teenagers between ages 15 and 17 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data reflect the mother's place of residence. This measure of teenage childbearing focuses on unmarried females ages 15-17.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995.

Percent of Students Who Are High School Dropouts and Graduates is the percentage of students in grades 9-12 who drop out of school and the percentage of 12th grade students who graduate from high school.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Education, Planning Research and Evaluation Branch, 1995.

Percent of Teens Not in School and Not Working, Ages 16-19 is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full-time or part-time) and not employed (full-time or part-time).

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3A.

Child Death Rate, Ages 1-14 (deaths per 100,000 children) is the number of deaths of children between ages 1 and 14, from all causes, per 100,000 children in this age range. The data are reported by place of residence, not place of death.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995.

Child Abuse Report Rate is the number of reports of child abuse and neglect, per 1,000 children ages 17 or less. The **Substantiated Child Abuse Rate** is the total number of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children under the age of 18. The term *Unknown* means that a final determination could not be made.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Division of Child and Family Services, 1995.

Juvenile Violent Crime Arrest Rate, Ages 10-17 (arrests per 100,000 youths) is the number of arrests of youths under age 18 for violent offenses (homicide, forcible rape, robbery or aggravated assault), per 100,000 youths between ages 10 and 17. The annual arrest figures include all arrests of youths for violent offenses during the year, including repeated arrests of the same individual for different offenses.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety, Nevada Public Highways Patrol Records and Identification Services, 1995.

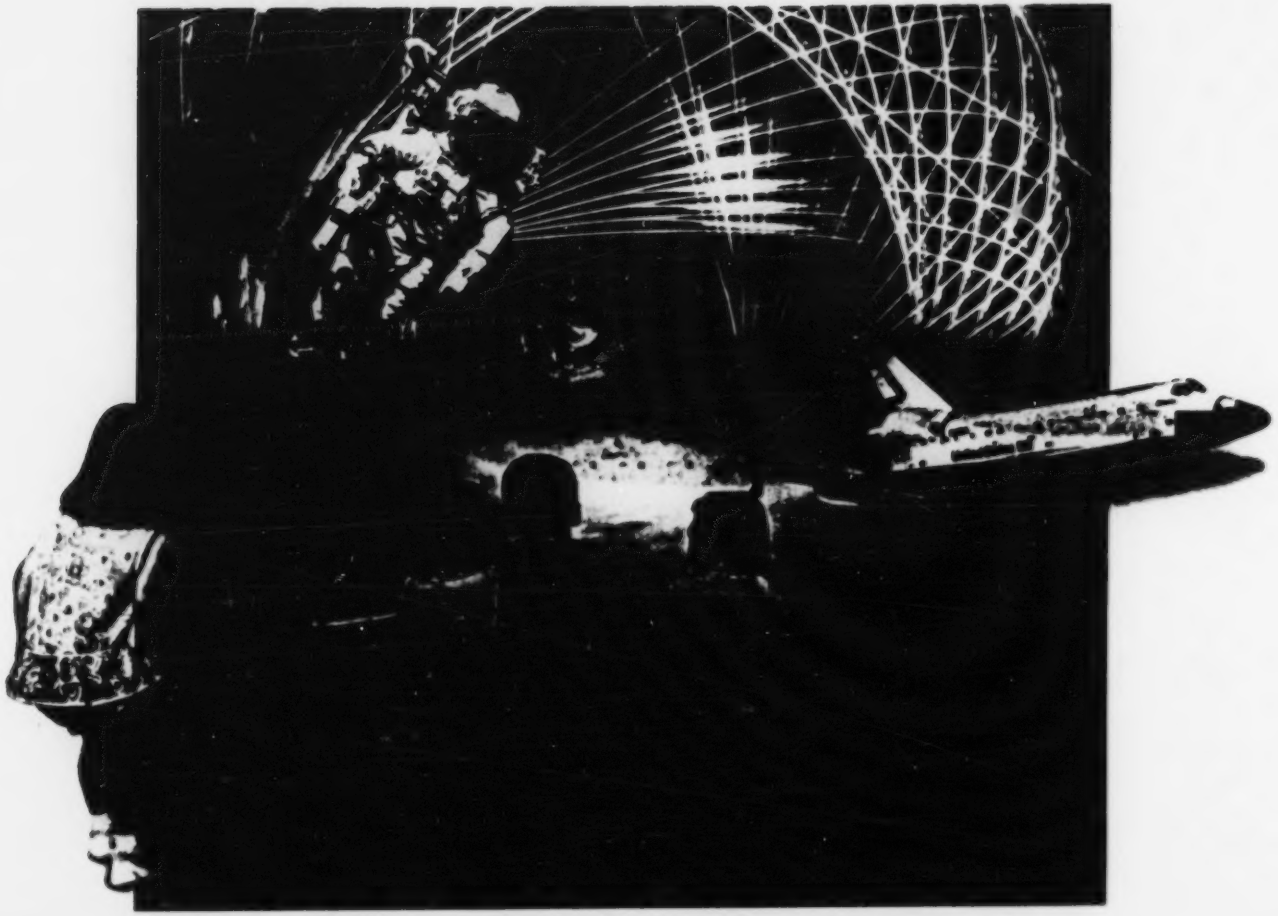
Teen Violent Death Rate, Ages 15-19 (deaths per 100,000 teens) is the number of deaths from homicide, suicide and accidents of teens between ages 15 and 19 per 100,000 teens in this age group. The data are reported by place of residence, not the place where the death occurred.

Teen Suicide Rate, Ages 15-19 (deaths per 100,000 teens) is the number of deaths from suicide of teens between ages 15 and 19 per 100,000 teens in this age group.

SOURCE: State of Nevada Department of Human Resources, Health Division, Office of Vital Records and Statistics, 1995.

Notes

Urbanization of Nevada



"There is always one moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in."
- Graham Green

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